

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A gaming machine comprising:
 - variable display means for variably displaying designs;
 - a transparent liquid crystal display panel disposed in front of the variable display means through which said variable display means is able to be seen;
 - a liquid crystal holder for holding the periphery of a display unit of the liquid crystal display panel on a rear side thereof;
 - a panel frame for holding the periphery of the display unit of said liquid crystal display panel on a front side thereof;
 - a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the rear side of said liquid crystal display panel;
 - diffusion means for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates said liquid crystal display panel;
 - a base frame attached in front of the machine for supporting said liquid crystal holder, said panel frame, said light guiding plate and said diffusion means such that the front of the display unit of said liquid crystal display panel has an opening;
 - a transparent plate disposed in front of the base frame for closing said opening;
 - and
 - a rear holder for holding, said liquid crystal holder, said panel frame, said light guiding plate and said diffusion means supported by said base frame on said base frame from behind, and for reflecting the light emitted on said light guiding plate to the side of said liquid crystal display panel, the rear holder having one or more windows allowing the designs variably displayed in said variable display means to be observed.
2. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said variable display means is one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.
3. (Original) The reel-based gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.

4. (New) A gaming machine comprising:

- a variable display device for variably displaying symbols;
- a transparent liquid crystal display panel disposed in front of the variable display device through which said variable display device is able to be seen;
- a liquid crystal holder for holding the periphery of a display unit of the liquid crystal display panel on a rear side thereof;
- a panel frame for holding the periphery of the display unit of said liquid crystal display panel on a front side thereof;
- a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the rear side of said liquid crystal display panel;
- a diffusion sheet for diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates said liquid crystal display panel;
- a base frame attached in front of the machine for supporting said liquid crystal holder, said panel frame, said light guiding plate and said diffusion sheet such that the front of the display unit of said liquid crystal display panel has an opening;
- a transparent plate disposed in front of the base frame for closing said opening;

and

- a rear holder for holding, said liquid crystal holder, said panel frame, said light guiding plate and said diffusion sheet supported by said base frame on said base frame from behind, and for reflecting the light emitted on said light guiding plate to the side of said liquid crystal display panel, the rear holder having one or more windows allowing the symbols variably displayed in said variable display device to be observed.

5. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said variable display device is one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said symbols are drawn.

6. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.